

Welcome to the New Year 2013 in the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (Pol Arch Med Wewn)

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It has been a good year for the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (Pol Arch Med Wewn). The standing of the journal has increased following the announcement of our first impact factor (1.367) in June 2012.¹ It is undoubtedly our great success.

I greatly appreciate the major contribution of all reviewers who ensured high-quality reviews despite increased peer-review load. The names of our top reviewers in terms of the number of manuscripts evaluated in 2012 are provided in the [TABLE](#).

What has changed in our journal in 2012? First of all, Professor Andrzej Szczeklik, the head of our Polish Scientific Board and an eminent internist, mentor, and researcher in the field of aspirin-induced asthma and atherothrombosis, passed away on February 3, 2012. A special issue of our journal devoted to him was published in April 2012. We are grateful for his consistent support for our journal.

A new head of the Polish Scientific Board is Professor Franciszek Kokot, an outstanding clinician and expert in renal diseases and electrolyte disturbances.

Since January 2012, we can all enjoy our new user-friendly journal website. In January 2012, we planned to shorten our time to the first editorial decision to 25 days²; however, much to our surprise, the actual average time to first decision for the entire 2012 was 22.5 days, similarly to several high-impact journals. This success results largely from the work of a new Vice Editor-in-chief, Dr. Grzegorz Gajos supported by excellent reviewers and our editorial team. As expected, we observed a rising number of submissions by 64% in the second half of 2012 compared with the first 6 months. The acceptance rate dropped to 36% in 2012. We have decided not to recruit Section Editors, postponing this change to the year 2014.

TABLE Top reviewers in 2012

Tomasz Stompór
Tomasz Klupa
Michał Tendera
Jolanta Małyszko
Jarosław Zalewski
Jerzy Bełtowski
Andrzej Surdacki
Piotr Jankowski
Marian Klinger

I am proud of the results of the first edition of the best student paper award, which were announced in March 2012. The three best papers were published in the July–August issue of our journal.^{3–5} The second edition has been announced and the submission deadline is March 15, 2013.

A few changes are planned in 2013. First, we will further develop the section of “Letters to the Editor” not only to offer the readers an opportunity to share their comments on the published papers but also to publish new findings from preliminary reports. The latter variant makes it possible for us to publish the results in a fast-track mode (within 4 weeks) without compromising our quality standards. Another new initiative is the “Clinical Image” section. Based on one image, ranging from a photograph depicting atypical skin manifestations of the disease through unusual X-rays or CT scans to laboratory findings confirming the diagnosis, a brief clinical presentation of an interesting case of up to 700 words with up to 5 references will be required. We hope that this new type of articles will be a substitute for the “Case reports” section, suspended in 2009, and will provide an opportunity to present the rapidly evolving new technologies used in the field of internal medicine.

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FIGURE Best paper prize and student award ceremony; XI National Conference of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine, Warsaw, April 13, 2012



With a growing support of all internists in Poland and other countries, I am confident of the continued success of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* in the year 2013 with a further increase in the impact factor. It is estimated that its value will exceed 1.6 in June 2013. We look forward to receiving more submissions of high quality.

A happy New Year 2013 to all our readers, authors, referees, members of the International and Polish Scientific Board, our entire editorial staff headed by Małgorzata Wiesner, our publisher, *Medycyna Praktyczna* (MP), and all internal medicine specialists.

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